

# Spatial Data Synergy Team

## Status Report

September 1, 1999

Following is a status report or a "state of the union" write-up on the many activities of the Spatial Data Synergy Team. This status report is organized by building block (objective).

### Block 1 - Catalog NOS geospatial assets

The inventory is progressing very nicely. All groups have responded back to my request for info (Bob, I still need to get back to you on your questions), and a good list is in the making. Also, in conjunction with the work Tim and I have been doing on the Treasures at Risk report (thanks Tim for ALL your hard work), a table has been compiled using input from all areas that supplements the list with additional information. The next step is to compile a list of active and prototype Internet sites. In the near future you will be seeing a request to each program office for such a list. TEAM MEETING ISSUE - At our next meeting we need to discuss procedures on "registering" our NOS sites so that a maintainable list of web sites will always be available.

### Block 2 - Evaluate and transform data to ensure availability

Activities are proceeding with the two major data bases.

Bathymetric Data Base - In late July a draft report on the data base was distributed to all team members and other interested personnel. Good comments were received back from about 4 people. Curt Loy is compiling them into one document and will be going back out to you for your response. Concurrently, an ESDIM proposal was submitted for funding for this effort. It made it past the first hurdle and we are hopeful it will be accepted for funding. That will be announced in early November. A meetings was

held with OCS and CSC personnel in June to discuss third-party data (identification and acquisition) which is planned to be included in the bathymetric data base.

Shoreline Data Base - A meeting was held in August with the pertinent players to discuss customers and products needed, data elements and relationships, software requirements, and logistics. It was a productive meeting and follow-up meetings will be held in the near future. CSC and NGS are moving forward with the large project of scanning and digitizing the shoreline manuscripts using the Environmental Data Rescue Project (EDRP).

In addition, work is proceeding in other areas.

Marine cadastral data base - A new person (ECO) from CSDL is now working with the Chief Geographer to move up the time line.

Data Rescue efforts - NOS was very successful in getting two ESDIM proposals past the first stage that include data rescue. Included are hydrographic survey sheet digitizing and rescue of benthic habitat, shoreline and coastal watershed data in the small states of the Caribbean.

TEAM MEETING ISSUE - Once the inventory is complete, the team will review the list and see what additional data sets should be recommended to make accessible.

Block 3 - Design/Implement a "unified"  
NOS spatial data delivery system

SPO has offered to take the lead in organizing the workshop on this subject. A preliminary agenda MIGHT be as follows:

Day 1 - Presentations by team members on existing web sites so that all participants become familiar with data sets and products to be included in the NOS gateway or portal. Also, some other agency web sites may be shown that are particularly well done or closely applicable to the direction we have been discussing.

Day 2 - Restricted meeting with 2 reps from each program office to rough out what it is we want to have the gateway do and lay out the structure. One of the reps should be very familiar with their program office's existing and future data sets, products, and web sites, and the office director's "wishes" in this area. The other should be a technical person familiar with developing web sites for that office.

Day 3 - The technical person (from previous day's meeting) from each office will work together to develop the architecture based on day 2 discussions. This will be presented at a later time to NOS management and the team for approval.

Also, many ESDIM proposals from NOS have made the first cutoff that support our efforts to make data accessible to a wide variety of people; hopefully some (all) will be funded. They include hazardous spill reporting and tracking, developing a digital inventory of U.S. shoreline habitats, improving access to NGS' continuously-operating reference stations, building an NOS shellfish information management system, and making accessible the digital vector data used to build our electronic navigational charts.

#### Block 4 - Education

On August 16, Anne Ball of CSC presented the Metadata for Managers course for the Senior Management Council. It was well received and there was a good question and answer period afterwards. The Office Directors appeared open to expanding the training to the next level (division and branch chiefs and selected technical people). I will be asking you in the near future to work with your director to come up with an estimate of how many people in each program office will be attending the next Metadata for Managers classes. Anne Ball has graciously offered to do 6 separate classes during her next visit to Silver Spring (and more as needed here and elsewhere).

CSC is moving forward with developing a Train the Trainers class

that will train people to teach metadata issues, theory, and building metadata. They will be working on the syllabus soon.

An ESDIM proposal has made it to the next step that would establish a position (person) at the NOS level that will serve as the coordinator and instructor in all metadata issues.

## Block 5 - Leadership, Oversight, and Outreach

Coordination meetings have been held with USGS, OCS, and CSC to open discussions on data sharing and other cooperative activities in the data arena. A demonstration project is being planned for Tampa Bay where data from NOAA and USGS will be merged to form useful products. Data being discussed includes shoreline (from both agencies), elevation, depth, water levels, geodetic control, nowcast and forecast models of tides and currents, and other data sets as available.

Another meeting was held with USGS, USACE, MMS, and NOAA (NOS and NESDIS) to discuss efforts for a joint demonstration project. The official name is Atlantic Margin Offshore Aggregates Workshop: Database and Interagency GIS Development. This group wants to access the ability to link and make accessible physical and oceanographic data sets from all our agencies for use in analyzing sediments, sand resources, dredging concerns, coastal issues, etc.

TEAM MEETING ISSUE - Block 5 activities need to be discussed during the next meeting. We need to move forward with developing a data access policy and determining procedures to register Internet sites. Please start thinking about these in advance.

## Spatial Data Synergy Project Report

This falls in my lap now. I intend on making a final draft by Sept. 24 with Tim's assistance incorporating the comments received by everyone. Then you will all get one more chance to review it before it is passed to the next level.

## Additional Info

A book is due out in October entitled "Marine and Coastal Geographical Information Systems" that includes a chapter written by Millington and Cindy Fowler. A dedication is included for Millington in this book. Also, the Shalowitz book is nearing completion that Millington and Cindy put a lot of effort into. This book also includes a very nice dedication to Millington. There is a possibility that a ceremony will be held later in the year to announce the publication of these books that will include Dr. Baker and/or Dept. of Commerce representatives to make presentations. Millington's family would be invited to this. We will keep you informed about this.

That about wraps it up. A meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with the Delivery System Workshop to take advantage of having everyone in town. Proposed dates will be circulated in a few weeks.

Please let Maureen Kenny know if you:

- 0. are aware of any outside web sites that offer a unified delivery system that is very well done and may be of interest to team members.
- 0. have any ideas/comments for the workshop on the delivery system (block 3).
- 0. have had or have scheduled coordination meetings on GIS or data exchange activities with outside agencies other than the two meetings listed in Block 5.